

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-84 (canceled)

85. (currently amended) A nucleic acid-lipid particle, ~~said nucleic acid-lipid particle comprising: a nucleic acid; an amino lipid; a neutral lipid; a sterol; and comprising a lipid layer surrounding and encapsulating a central region containing a polyanionic nucleic acid, wherein said lipid layer comprises (i) an amino lipid comprising an amino group having a pK<sub>a</sub> of from 4 to 11, and (ii) a polyethyleneglycol-diacylglycerol (PEG-DAG) conjugate.~~

86. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of: (1,2-dioleyloxy-3-dimethylamino-propane (DODAP), N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture thereof.

87. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, ~~wherein said further comprising a neutral lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine (DOPE), palmitoyloleoylphosphatidylcholine (POPC), distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC), sphingomyelin and a mixture thereof.~~

88. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, ~~wherein said sterol is further comprising cholesterol.~~

89. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 88, wherein ~~the said~~ cholesterol ~~comprises~~ constitutes from 35% to 55% of the total lipid present in said particle.

90. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid ~~comprises~~ constitutes from 10% to 40% of the total lipid present in said particle.

91. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid ~~comprises~~ constitutes from 10% to 35% of the total lipid present in said particle.

92. (cancelled)

93. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said PEG-DAG conjugate ~~comprises~~ constitutes from 0.5% to 15% of the total lipid present in said particle.

94. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, further comprising a neutral lipid, wherein said neutral lipid is distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC).

95. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein ~~the said amino lipid is nucleic acid-lipid particle comprises: N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA)[(:)], and wherein said nucleic acid-lipid particle further comprises distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC)[(:)] and a sterol; and a PEG-DAG conjugate.~~

96. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 95, wherein ~~the said~~ sterol is cholesterol.

97. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is DNA.
98. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is a plasmid.
99. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is an antisense oligonucleotide.
100. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is a ribozyme.
101. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid encodes a therapeutic product of interest.
102. (previously presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 101, wherein said therapeutic product of interest is a peptide or protein.
103. (previously presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein the nucleic acid in said nucleic acid-lipid particle is not substantially degraded after exposure of said particle to a nuclease at 37°C for 20 minutes.
104. (previously presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein the nucleic acid in said nucleic acid-lipid particle is not substantially degraded after incubation of said particle in serum at 37°C for 30 minutes.
105. (currently amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein the said polyanionic nucleic acid is fully encapsulated in said nucleic acid-lipid particle.
106. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
107. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 106, comprising a nucleic acid-lipid particle, wherein the said nucleic acid-lipid particle comprises: amino lipid is N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA)[[:]] and wherein said nucleic acid-lipid particle further comprises distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC)[[:]] and a sterol cholesterol; a PEG-DAG conjugate; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
108. (currently amended) A method of introducing a nucleic acid into a cell, said method comprising contacting said cell with a nucleic acid-lipid particle comprising an amino lipid, a neutral lipid, a sterol, a PEG-DAG conjugate, and a nucleic acid according to claim 85.
109. (new) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, further comprising a sterol.
110. (new) The pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 107, wherein said sterol is cholesterol.